



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

1007-6-5-100

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Dear Mr. Dingell:

Thank you very much for your letter to Secretary Powell and for sharing with us the text of your Concurrent Resolution. Passage of this resolution, without ammendment, would make a positive and welcome contribution to the Administration's work with the parties to end the violence, implement the Mitchell Committee recommendations, and return to substantive negotiations. We appreciate very much your support.

As you point out, the Mitchell Committee recommendations represent a practical path back to productive negotiations between the parties. Before negotiations can begin, however, it is essential that the violence end and that both sides do everything possible to restore an atmosphere of calm. The meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Peres and Chairman Arafat and the renewed security coordination which followed that meeting are important steps in this direction.

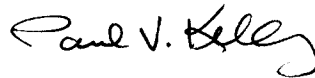
It is important that both Palestinians and Israelis avoid actions that jeopardize this renewed dialogue. Both sides must engage in the fullest possible coordination on security issues to help ensure a lasting halt to violence and terror. The Israelis should refrain from provocative acts that can only escalate tensions and undermine efforts to bring about a lasting halt to violence. For their part, the Palestinian authority must take sustained and effective steps to preempt violence and arrest those responsible for planning and conducting acts of violence and terror. Further progress will not be possible without a significant reduction in the level of violence.

The Honorable  
John Dingell,  
House of Representatives.

Both sides now have an important opportunity to break from the events of the past year to begin to build a new relationship. Both sides must follow through on their commitments to fully implement the Mitchell Committee recommendations.

The President and the Secretary have been deeply engaged and will continue to do everything possible to help the two sides end the violence and encourage the resumption of a meaningful political dialogue. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Paul V. Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paul" and last name "Kelly" clearly legible.

Paul V. Kelly  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs